

THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE.

God rules by law, but service that we render only because we must, is not acceptable to God. The best service is spontaneous. We are not forced to give our hearts to God. Indeed we cannot be forced. We can be constrained. "My son, give me thy heart." "Come unto me." "Why will ye die?" It is the language of expostulation.

The same is true of entire consecration and full separation. It must be voluntary. I beseech you present your bodies a living sacrifice. No one goes this way unless he wants to. Hence the constant effort of the Holy Spirit to create a longing in us for inward purity. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness."

The life which God puts into the seeking soul is a spontaneous life. No one is forced to pray or to sing, or to witness, or to give. If one does not like to do these things, there is yet something wrong. Peter said to Ananias about the land which he had sold and had kept back a part of the price, "While it remained, was it not thine own?" and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?"

Money given grudgingly both loses its reward, and testifies to the lack of the spontaneity of the giver. Why does not everyone professing to be Christ's, get filled with his spirit? Involuntary or necessitated service is unacceptable to God, and is utterly destitute of salvation. Motive power in religion must be within. Wait on the Lord, then, mount up on wings, run and not weary, walk and not faint.—*The Christian Witness*.

HEROIC WORKERS.

Who can fail to be impressed with the heroic zeal of workers in the cause of God. The days of martyrdom are not yet passed; and there are to-day hundreds who are glad to abandon home and friends, to go forth into the dark places of the earth, facing the hardships of an uncivilized life, the deadly miasms of tropical lands, and the fierce fury of the servants of the god of this world who has blinded the minds of those that believe not lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine into their hearts. Doubtless there are those who go forth to this work who are not well equipped, and so lives may be needlessly sacrificed. These are costly lessons, which should be duly learned; but still the work is important, the time is short, and God calls for heroic men and faithful women to enter upon his service.

It is not always necessary to go

abroad to find work to do. True workers can find work always anywhere. Shirkers will find it nowhere. It is probable that there never was a time since the days of the apostles, when there were more persons heed the call of God and go forth to do his work, and win the perishing from the ways of sin and darkness and unbelief. Let us give thanks to God for all such workers, and let us be workers with them, laboring to equip them with the Word of God, with all needful knowledge, and with such appliances as shall prepare them to meet their adversaries boldly and make their mission a success.—*Sel.*

CREAKING MACHINERY

No wise machanic runs a creaking machine. If there is a creak, a rattle, clatter, a hot axle or a smell of burning oil, the prudent man knows that something is wrong, and he will lubricate the journals, stop the machinery, repair the damage, or remove the difficulty.

No person should allow pain and disease to pass unnoticed and become chronic. A pain is a token of disorder; something is wrong. It may take but a little while to set the wrong right, and then everything will move on as it should; but if men neglect the warnings of pain and disease, they by and by find something more serious: the trifling ailment becomes alarming, the temporary pain becomes settled; inflammation, disease, and disorganization follow; and life-long misery, incurable maladies, and an untimely death close the scene, and a life is lost for want of a little timely care. Sometimes a hot compress, a hot brick wrapped in a damp cloth, or gentle friction, or a copious draught of hot water; a warm bath, a little change of diet, or wisely directed exercise, will remove unpleasant symptoms, restore health, and preserve a life which may be forfeited by the neglect to take timely care, and remedy some little ailment which may seem insignificant to require attention.

Every wise machinist endeavors to keep his machinery in good order: every man who neglects this, will find it creaking and rattling, wearing and tearing, and by and by there may come, a crash, sudden, unexpected, and fatal which could easily have been foreseen and prevented by the aid of common prudence and common sense.—*Sel.*

No matter how dark things look, if God is leading we are on the way to something bright.

When men fulfill the law of Christ they do not need any other law to make them do right.

A MOTHER'S DYING CHARGE.

In Dr. Dabney's sermon on "Parental Responsibility," in the first volume of his "Discussions," is found a striking incident. A gentleman past middle age, who had lived an ungodly life, come before the session to join the church. Being asked what sermons aroused him, he answered, none; but that his change was due to his mother. Every one was astonished. She had been dead more than forty years. She had died when this man, now seeking the church, was but six years of age. He stated that the truths she taught him, and especially the dying scene, were the human instruments which brought him to Jesus. Then Dr. Dabney, in his own graphic and pathetic language, thus writes:

"When this young mother was about to die, she had gathered her little flock at her bedside, cowering like a cluster of frightened birds before the mighty hunter, Death; had prayed for and blessed them, and as she laid her dying hand upon his brow, had charged him, her first born, to fear his mother's God, and remember her instructions. That hand had been upon his head ever since, through the long years of worldliness; he had felt its touch in the haunts of business as well as in his hours of solitude; in his hunt as he was being his hounds after the fox; on the race field as he cheered his winning horse; and it was this which at last brought him back to God.—*Presbyterian*.

The kind of giving upon which God promises a blessing is the giving that is willing to give some of its own blood.

Every Christian mother has as much of a call to preach to her children as Peter had to preach to the multitude on the day of Pentecost.

"Love, well understood, is wisdom." Love is indeed wisdom in full manifestation, shining brightly and glorifying God.

"Giving to the Lord," it is said, "is but transferring our goods to a higher floor." Yes, to a floor where pure principle can have sway, and where our goods may be used for the divine glory, and the benefit of our fellow-men.